

Testimony regarding of HB 6659:
“AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE 30, 2025”
Support of Provision for funding for HUSKY health coverage to those
ineligible due to immigration status

Dear Chairs and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Ada Fenick; I am a pediatrician working at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT, where I see patients and teach future physicians. I am a resident of New Haven, CT. I am writing on my own behalf and for my patients, and not on behalf of the Yale School of Medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 6659: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, with respect to the budgets of the human services agencies, specifically for the Department of Social Services, which administers HUSKY.

I stand in **support** of expanding access to HUSKY for all residents regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. Our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 13; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants at least up to age 26, but at the very least children up to age 21 as well as DACA recipients. **I am writing to request that the Governor's Budget include sufficient funding to expand HUSKY up to age 26 for those who are income-eligible, regardless of immigration status.**

Every day in our practice, we see patients who have delayed care for their children until their medical problem can no longer be ignored. Often, patients who delay their care have worse final outcomes, with disability (or even death); this happens even in our practice for the children and adolescents we care for. The state should care about this not only on humanitarian grounds, but also on economic grounds – we should want every person to be able to function in good health to promote the economy of the state. Expanding HUSKY to cover children and young adults to age 26 is humane and it represents an investment in the future of the state of Connecticut.

I support and request that the budget include funding to provide HUSKY coverage for undocumented individuals up to age 26, but at the very least children up to age 21 as well as DACA recipients.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and time,

Ada Fenick, MD
New Haven, CT